

**MICROBIAL VARIATION**—Edited by V. D. Timakov, member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the U.S.S.R. Translated from the Russian by G. H. Beale. Pergamon Press, Inc., 122 East 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y. 202 pages, \$6.50.

The purpose behind the immense effort involved in the translation of this book is not at all clear to this reviewer. The major fraction of the material presented is a confused mixture of dialectical materialism, pseudoscience, and Soviet genetics of the Lysenko variety. It must be admitted that many of the thoughts and opinions expressed in this work have at one time or another been held by microbiologists in other countries, but have now been quite uniformly discarded.

Not all of the material presented is worthless, however. For instance, the data presented in the arguments concerning losses of virulence appearing conjointly with the development of (induced) antimicrobial resistance are similar to results achieved in other parts of the world. It is regrettable that in these sections, however, as well as in the rest of the presentation the references are almost exclusively to the Soviet literature. This is understandable for the major fraction of the material cited above, but seems a significant omission when considered for the sections dealing with induced changes in virulence alone.

In short, this book would seem worthwhile for the microbiologist interested in an exhaustive treatise on current Soviet thought and research on directed microbial variation with its implications for the development of strains of diminished virulence for vaccines, or strains of increased virulence for less peaceful uses. For the uninformed reader who wishes to become better acquainted with this subject, this reviewer would suggest that he delay reading this work until he acquires a grounding in the truly scientific aspects of microbial variation.

HAROLD J. SIMON, M.D.

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**CLINICAL PSYCHOPATHOLOGY** — Kurt Schneider, Professor, University of Heidelberg, Germany. Translated by M. W. Hamilton, B.A. (Lit. Hum.) Oxon., University of Manchester, Dept. of Psychiatry, The Royal Infirmary, Manchester, England. Preface by E. W. Anderson, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P., D.P.M., Professor, University of Manchester, Dept. of Psychiatry, The Royal Infirmary, Manchester, England. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y., 1959. 173 pages, \$4.50.

This volume is a translation based on the fifth revised edition of the original *Klinische Psychopathologie* by Kurt Schneider, who retired as Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Heidelberg in 1955. The translation has been done by M. W. Hamilton of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Manchester.

A preface to the book has been written by Professor E. W. Anderson, also of the University of Manchester, which serves an exceedingly useful purpose for readers in the United States who, like this reviewer, are not entirely familiar with the details of the development of psychiatry in Germany. Anderson points out that Kurt Schneider has been one of the outstanding figures in European psychiatry for more than 40 years. Schneider's psychiatric thinking comes under the general heading of Kraepelinian tradition, and he was particularly influenced by Karl Jaspers who "... laid the foundations of the (so-called) school of 'Phenomenology'." The author of the preface then continues to discuss the phenomenologic approach and shows something of the relationship with other schools of thought.

Upon turning to the content of the book, one notes first that Schneider begins with a classification of clinical material and a definition of illness. It is immediately apparent that his approach is markedly different from that commonly taught and used in the United States. His classification cer-

tainly has the advantage of simplicity, since there are only two principal groups. The first includes "Abnormal Variations of Psychic Life." Group two is labelled "Effects of Illness (and Defective Structure)."

In group one he lists three items: Abnormal intellectual endowment, abnormal personality and abnormal psychic reaction. In group two are included the psychoses. Group two is further subdivided to indicate the somatic etiology and the psychic symptomatology. For all of the conditions except psychothymia (manic-depressive psychoses) and schizophrenia the organic etiological basis is indicated. For the two exceptions, psychothymia and schizophrenia, the author has placed question marks to indicate the unknown somatic background.

Schneider makes it very clear that he considers illness to exist only in connection with the presence of morbid organic change. He states that he holds to this in spite of the fact that it has not been confirmed by organic pathological investigations.

The author then continues to discuss the items he has designated in his classification. It is in this main section of the book that the reader is able to see the beautiful skill developed by Schneider in his description of the observable elements in mental illness. Throughout the text there are indirect references to the mechanisms by which these elements, symptoms for example, have been brought about. In several such instances he refers to psychoanalytic concepts.

For one who has been brought up to use the dynamic approach, the book appears to have little to offer beyond a demonstration of careful observation of the signs and symptoms of mental illness. Such a reader misses a framework on which to place the observed data. It is possible that Schneider has such a framework, but if so, this reviewer has not been able to perceive it in this book. One gets the feeling that if it were possible to observe Schneider working with patients, the book would be much more meaningful.

It is difficult for the reviewer to recommend the book other than to psychiatrists who wish to have some understanding of the work of an important European in the field.

CHARLES W. TIDD, M.D.

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**PRACTICE OF CLINICAL CHILD PSYCHOLOGY**—Alan O. Ross, Ph.D., Chief Psychologist, Pittsburgh Child Guidance Center, and Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York, 1959. 275 pages, \$5.75.

At the present time there is still a considerable struggle going on between psychiatrists and psychologists concerning their various roles with the patient. While this struggle is minimal in the child field, this book will serve to express some of the problem. It is a very calm expression of the role of the clinical psychologist working with children and for the most part, by its lucidity, clarifies the differing roles that psychiatrists and psychologists can have. The reader will be grateful for the historical presentation as well as for a definition of various jobs in keeping with the functions needed in a clinical operation.

The most serious criticism to be leveled against the book concerns the minimization of the research role of the psychologist. Those of us in psychiatry who are often dependent on psychologists, and certainly look to them for assistance in defining problems, will feel that Dr. Ross has not spent enough time in considering this aspect. However, there is an excellent description of the testing function of the psychologist and of the various tests which can be employed. The latter should be most helpful to any physician in looking for the kind of results he should expect from a psychologist working with children.

HENRY WORK, M.D.